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810 S. Casino Center Blvd., Suite 104

Las Vegas, Nevada 89101

LARSON & STEPHENS

Case 09-14814-qwz Doc 580 Entered 10/16/09 14:58:17 Page 1 of 19

# DEBTORS' OBJECTION TO STAFFMARK'S CLAIM PURSUANT TO SECTION 502(b) OF THE BANKRUPTCY CODE AND BANKRUPTCY RULES 3003 AND 3007 (BOOKS & RECORDS CLAIM); DECLARATION OF PAUL D. HUYGENS IN SUPPORT THEREOF

Pursuant to section 502(b) of title 11 of the United States Code (the "Bankruptcy Code") and Rules 3003 and 3007 of the Federal Rules of Bankruptcy Procedure (the "Bankruptcy Rules"), the above-captioned debtors and debtors in possession (collectively, the "Debtors") hereby object (the "Objection") to the claim of Staffmark (the "Books & Records Claim"), attached to the letter in Exhibit A, because the Debtors' books and records do not support the claim, and request the entry of an order (the "Order") reducing the disputed claim as indicated in further detail below. In support of this Objection, the Debtors rely on the Declaration of Paul D. Huygens in Support of Debtors' Objection to Staffmark's Claim Pursuant to Section 502(b) of the Bankruptcy Code and Bankruptcy Rules 3003 and 3007 [Books & Records Claim]. In further support of this Objection, the Debtors respectfully represent as follows:

#### **BACKGROUND**

1. On March 31, 2009, the above-captioned Debtors (the "<u>Primary Filers</u>") except Tuscany Golf Country Club, LLC, Pinnacle Grading, LLC, and Rhodes Homes Arizona, LLC (the "<u>Secondary Filers</u>") filed voluntary petitions for relief under chapter 11 of title 11 of the Bankruptcy Code. On April 1, 2009, the Secondary Filers filed voluntary petitions for relief

No. 09-14828); Six Feathers Holdings, LLC (Case No. 09-14833); Elkhorn Investments, Inc. (Case No. 09-14837); Jarupa, LLC (Case No. 09-14839); Rhodes Realty, Inc. (Case No. 09-14841); C & J Holdings, Inc. (Case No. 09-14843); Rhodes Ranch General Partnership (Case No. 09-14844); Rhodes Design and Development Corporation (Case No. 09-14846); Parcel 20, LLC (Case No. 09-14848); Tuscany Acquisitions IV, LLC (Case No. 09-14849); Tuscany Acquisitions III, LLC (Case No. 09-14850); Tuscany Acquisitions II, LLC (Case No. 09-14852); Tuscany Acquisitions, LLC (Case No. 09-14853); Rhodes Ranch Golf Country Club, LLC (Case No. 09-14854); Overflow, LP (Case No. 09-14856); Wallboard, LP (Case No. 09-14858); Jackknife, LP (Case No. 09-14860); Batcave, LP (Case No. 09-14861); Chalkline, LP (Case No. 09-14862); Glynda, LP (Case No. 09-14865); Tick, LP (Case No. 09-14866); Rhodes Arizona Properties, LLC (Case No. 09-14868); Rhodes Homes Arizona, L.L.C. (Case No. 09-14882); Tuscany Golf Country Club, LLC (Case No. 09-14884); and Pinnacle Grading, LLC (Case No. 09-14887).

The Debtors reserve the right to file additional objections, whether on substantive or non-substantive grounds, to any and all other claims filed against their estates.

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under chapter 11 of the Bankruptcy Code. All references to Petition Date herein shall mean March 31, 2009 for the Primary Filers or April 1, 2009 for the Secondary Filers, as applicable. The Debtors are continuing in possession of their property and are operating and managing their businesses, as debtors in possession, pursuant to sections 1107 and 1108 of the Bankruptcy Code.

#### RELIEF REQUESTED

2. By this Objection, the Debtors seek entry of an order, pursuant to section 502(b) of the Bankruptcy Code and Bankruptcy Rules 3003 and 3007, reducing the Books & Records Claim from \$2,130.00 to \$978.0.

#### **OBJECTION**

- 3. The Books & Records Claim relates to a claim filed by Staffmark, which provides professional staffing services. The Debtors' books and records are inconsistent with the documentation attached to Staffmark's proof of claim. The Debtors' books and records reflect that Staffmark is owed \$978.00 and not the \$2,130.00 as asserted in their claim. The Debtors sent the claimant a letter requesting that the claimant reduce its claim to avoid an objection being filed. See Exhibit A. As of the date and time of filing of this Objection, no response has been received from Staffmark.
- 4. Bankruptcy Code section 502 authorizes a party in interest to object to claims. See 11 U.S.C. §502(a). Upon such objection, this Court, "after notice and a hearing, shall determine the amount of such claim in lawful currency of the United States as of the date of the filing of the petition . . . ." 11 U.S.C. § 502(b). Although a proper proof of claim is presumed valid under Bankruptcy Rule 3001(f), once an objection controverts the presumption, the creditor has the ultimate burden of persuasion as to the validity and amount of the claim. Ashford v. Consolidated Pioneer Mortg. (In re Consolidated Pioneer Mortg.), 178 B.R. 222, 226 (B.A.P. 9th Cir. 1995), aff'd, 91 F.3d 151 (9th Cir. 1996) (quoting *In re Allegheny* International, Inc., 954 F.2d 167, 173-74 (3d Cir. 1992)). The Bankruptcy Appellate Panel for the Ninth Circuit explained the shifting burdens of proof with respect to objection to proofs of claim as follows:

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The burden of proof for claims brought in the bankruptcy court under 11 U.S.C.A. § 502(a) rests on different parties at different times. Initially, the claimant must allege facts sufficient to support the claim. If the averments in his filed claim meet this standard of sufficiency, it is "prima facie" valid. In other words, a claim that alleges facts sufficient to support a legal liability to the claimant satisfies the claimant's initial obligation to go forward. . . . The burden of persuasion is always on the claimant.

*Id.* (emphasis added). Following this decision, the District Court for the Northern District of California emphasized, "unless the claimant has alleged 'facts sufficient to support a legal liability, 'the claim is not prima facie valid." *In re Hongnisto*, 293 B.R. 45, 50 (N.D. Cal. 2003) (quoting Consolidated Pioneer Mortg., 178 B.R. at 266) (holding that the claimant's proof of claim failed to allege sufficient facts to support a legal liability and consequently disallowed the proof of claim); see Consolidated Pioneer Mortg., 178 B.R. at 227 (holding that because the proof of claim did not allege sufficient facts to support the claim, the proof of claim was disallowed).

5. Based on the Debtors' review of their books and records and the proof of claim filed by the claimant, and the claimant's lack of response to the Debtors' request to reduce the claim, the Debtors submit that this Books & Records Claim should be reduced by the Court as follows: Claim No. 7 filed in Case No. 09-14814 against the Rhodes Companies, LLC from \$2,130.00 to \$978.00.

#### **CONCLUSION**

6. The Debtors object to the allowance of the Books & Records Claim as set forth herein for the reasons stated herein, and the Debtors hereby move this Court for an Order reducing the Books & Records Claim as indentified in the proof of claim attached to the letter in Exhibit A.

# LARSON & STEPHENS 810 S. Casino Center Blvd., Suite 104 Las Vegas, Nevada 89101 Tel: (702) 382-1170 Fax: (702) 382-1169

#### **NOTICE**

- 7. No trustee or examiner has been appointed in these chapter 11 cases. Notice of this objection has been provided to (i) the United States Trustee for the District of Nevada, (ii) counsel to the Creditors' Committee, (iii) the claimant for which the Debtors are objecting to the claim in this Objection in accordance with the address provided in the proof of claim for such Books & Records Claim, (iv) each person or entity that has filed a notice of appearance and request for special notice, and (v) other required parties pursuant to the Court's case management order entered in these cases. The Debtors submit that in light of the nature of the relief requested herein, no other or further notice is required.
- 8. Pursuant to Bankruptcy Rule 3007, the Debtors have provided the claimant affected by the Objection with at least thirty (30) days' notice of the hearing on the Objection.

WHEREFORE, the Debtors respectfully request that the Court enter an Order, substantially in the form attached hereto as **Exhibit B**, reducing the Books & Records Claim attached as part of **Exhibit A** hereto, and granting such other and further relief as the Court deems just an proper under the circumstances of these chapter 11 cases.

**DATED** this 16<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2009.

#### **LARSON & STEPHENS**

/s/ Zachariah Larson, Esq.
Zachariah Larson, Bar No. 7787
Kyle O. Stephens, Bar No. 7928
810 S. Casino Center Blvd., Suite 104
Las Vegas, NV 89101
702/382-1170
Attorneys for Debtors and Debtors in Possession

# TO STAFFMARK'S CLAIM [BOOKS & RECORDS CLAIM] I, Paul D. Huygens, declare as follows:

I am the Senior Vice President of Special Projects of the above-captioned
 Debtors and Debtors in possession. The facts set forth in this Declaration are personally known
 to me and, if called as a witness, I could and would testify thereto.

DECLARATION OF PAUL D. HUYGENS IN SUPPORT OF DEBTORS' OBJECTION

- 2. This declaration is submitted in support of the *Debtors' Objection to*Staffmark's Claim Pursuant to Section 502(b) of the Bankruptcy Code and Bankruptcy Rules

  3003 and 3007 [Books &Records Claim] (the "Objection").
- 3. I am one of the persons responsible for overseeing the claims reconciliation and objection process in the Debtors' chapter 11 cases. I have read the Debtors' Objection and am directly, or by and through my personnel or agents, familiar with the information contained therein, the proposed form of order (the "Proposed Order") and the exhibits attached thereto.
- 4. The claim and attached information and documentation were carefully reviewed and analyzed in good faith, and the Debtors' books and records were referenced for additional support, utilizing due diligence by appropriate personnel of the Debtors. These efforts have resulted in the identification of the disputed "Books & Records Claim", identified in the proof of claim attached to the letter in **Exhibit A**. I have personally reviewed the Books & Records Claim.
- 5. The Books & Records Claim relates to professional staffing services provided by the claimant to the Debtors. The Debtors' books and records do not support the documentation attached to Staffmark's proof of claim. As a result, I believe the Books & Records Claim should be reduced to \$978.00 as reflected in the Debtors' books and records. The Debtors sent the claimant a letter requesting that the claimant reduce its claim to avoid an objection being filed. See Exhibit A. As of the date and time of filing of this Objection, no response has been received from Staffmark.

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	1	6. I believe that granting the relief requested in the Objection is in the best				
	2	interests of the Debtors, their estates and their creditors.				
	3	I declare under penalty of perjury pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1746 that the foregoing is true				
	4	and correct to the best of my knowledge, information, and belief.				
	5	Executed this 16 <sup>th</sup> day of October, 2009, at Las Vegas, Nevada.				
	6	/a/ Paul D. Ilmoons				
	7	/s/ Paul D. Huygens Paul D. Huygens				
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PHENS Ivd., Suite 104 Ia 89101 Fax: (702) 382-1169	9					
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Las Vegas, Nevada 89101 Tel: (702) 382-1170 Fax: (702) 382-1169

810 S. Casino Center Blvd., Suite 104

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**EXHIBIT** A

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LAW OFFICES

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FACSIMILE: 310/201 0760

#### DELAWARE

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TELEPHONE: **302/652 4100** FACSIMILE: 302/652 4400

#### NEW YORK

788 THIRD AVENUE
36th FLOOR
NEW YORK
NEW YORK 10017-2024
TELEPHONE: 212/561 7700
FACSIMILE: 212/561 7777

September 18, 2009

#### VIA U.S. FIRST CLASS MAIL

Staffmark Attn: Terri Ayers

435 Elm Street, Suite 300 Cincinnati, OH 45202

> Re: The Rhodes Companies, et al. Chapter 11 Case No. 09-14814 (Jointly Administered)

Dear Ms. Ayers:

This firm represents The Rhodes Companies, LLC (the "Debtor") in its Chapter 11 bankruptcy filed in the United States Bankruptcy Court for the District of Nevada (Case No. 09-14814 LBR). You filed a proof of claim on behalf of Staffmark, designated as proof of claim number 7 in the amount of \$2,130.00 in the Debtor's bankruptcy case.

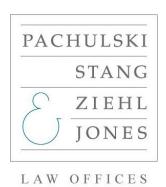
Upon review and reconciliation of the invoices attached to your claim, the Debtor shows the following invoices as paid:

Invoice No.	Amount	Check No.	Date of Payment
Inv # 118785	\$960.00	18131	4/30/09
Inv # 0001091792	\$192.00	18098	4/23/09
Total Paid	\$1,152.00		

Therefore, the Debtor believes the outstanding balance of your claim to be as follows:

\$2,130.00 Claim Amount -\$1,152.00 Less Payments

\$ 978.00 Balance of claim remaining



Ms. Terri Ayres September 18, 2009 Page 2

Based upon the above reconciliation, please amend your Claim to the amount of \$978.00 by signing and returning the enclosed Notice of Amended Claim form by October 9, 2009 so that we may avoid having to object to your claim in the Bankruptcy Court. Thank you.

Very truly yours,

/s/

Patricia J. Jeffries

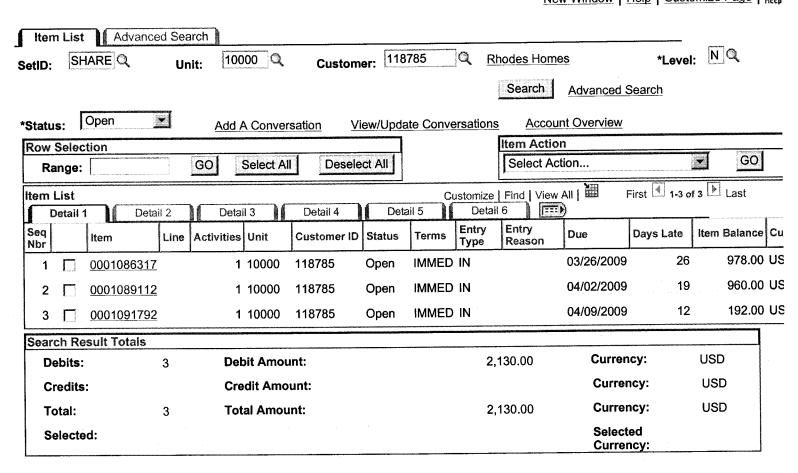
PJJ Enclosure

cc: Michael A. Matteo

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United States Bankruptcy Court	DISTRICT OF NOOLA	PROOF OF CLAIM
Name of Debtor Rhades Homes	Case Number	NO RED
NOTE: This form should not be used to make a claim for an administrative of the case. A "request" for payment of an administrative expense may be	04-14814-167	22
or the case. It request for payment of an administrative expense may be	filed pursuant to 11 U.S.C. § 503.	23 × 82 PH '09
Name of Creditor (The person or other entity to whom the debtor owes money or property):	Check box if you are aware that anyone else has filed a proof of	
Staffmark	claim relating to your claim. Attach copy of statement giving	
Name and address where potices should be sent:	particulars.  Check box if you have never	7 289
attn. Terri Fyers	received any notices from the bankruptcy court in this case.	2
435 EIN St. Ste 300	☐ Check box if the address differs	
CINCINNATIOH 45202 Telephone number: 1013, 859-4450	from the address on the envelope sent to you by the court.	This Space is for Court Use Only
Account or other number by which creditor identifies debtor:	Check here	
116785	if this claim ☐ replaces a previously ☐ amends	r filed claim, dated:
1. Basis for Claim	☐ Retiree benefits as defined i	n 11 U.S.C. § 1114(a)
☐ Goods sold  ✓ Services performed	☐ Wages, salaries, and comp	
☐ Money loaned	Your SS #:	
<ul> <li>□ Personal injury/wrongful death</li> <li>□ Taxes</li> </ul>	Unpaid compensation for	services performed
Other	from(date)	to(date)
2. Date debt was incurred:	3. If court judgment, date obt	tained:
4. Total Amount of Claim at Time Case Filed:	\$ _2130,00	fained:
4. Total Amount of Claim at Time Case Filed:  If all or part of your claim is secured or entitled to priority, also	so complete Item 5 or 6 below.	
<ul> <li>4. Total Amount of Claim at Time Case Filed:         If all or part of your claim is secured or entitled to priority, also Check this box if claim includes interest or other charges in add of all interest or additional charges.     </li> </ul>	so complete Item 5 or 6 below. ition to the principal amount of the cla	im. Attach itemized statement
<ul> <li>4. Total Amount of Claim at Time Case Filed: If all or part of your claim is secured or entitled to priority, also Check this box if claim includes interest or other charges in add of all interest or additional charges.</li> <li>5. Secured Claim.</li> </ul>	so complete Item 5 or 6 below. ition to the principal amount of the cla	nim. Attach itemized statement
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FORM B10 (Official Form 10) (4/01)					
United States Bankruptcy Court	DISTRICT OF NOVALA	PROOF OF CLAIM			
Name of Debtor Rhodes Homes	Case Number 09-14814-160	ARUVIDAR			
NOTE: This form should not be used to make a claim for an administrative of the case. A "request" for payment of an administrative expense may be	filed pursuant to 11 U.S.C. § 503.	APR 23 1 5× PH '01			
Name of Creditor (The person or other entity to whom the debtor owes money or property):  Staffmark  Name and address where notices should be sent:  OHMER TON HOSE  LIST ELM St. Ste 300  CINCINNATIOH 45202  Telephone number: 173, 859-14650	<ul> <li>□ Check box if you are aware that anyone else has filed a proof of claim relating to your claim. Attach copy of statement giving particulars.</li> <li>□ Check box if you have never received any notices from the bankruptcy court in this case.</li> <li>□ Check box if the address differs from the address on the envelope sent to you by the court.</li> </ul>	THIS SPACE IS FOR COURT USE ONLY			
Account or other number by which creditor identifies debtor:	Check here  if this claim  a previously  amends	filed claim, dated:			
1. Basis for Claim  Goods sold  Services performed  Money loaned  Personal injury/wrongful death  Taxes  Other	Retiree benefits as defined in Wages, salaries, and comper Your SS #:  Unpaid compensation for from	ensation (fill out below)  services performed  to			
2. Date debt was incurred:	(date)  3. If court judgment, date obt	(date)			
4. Total Amount of Claim at Time Case Filed:  If all or part of your claim is secured or entitled to priority, also complete Item 5 or 6 below.  Check this box if claim includes interest or other charges in addition to the principal amount of the claim. Attach itemized statement of all interest or additional charges.					
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<ul> <li>7. Credits: The amount of all payments on this claim has been credited and deducted for the purpose of making this proof of claim.</li> <li>8. Supporting Documents: Attach copies of supporting documents, such as promissory notes, purchase orders, invoices, itemized statements of running accounts, contracts, court judgments, mortgages, security agreements, and evidence of perfection of lien. DO NOT SEND ORIGINAL DOCUMENTS. If the documents are not available, explain. If the documents are voluminous, attach a summary.</li> </ul>					
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Las Vegas, Nevada 89101 Tel: (702) 382-1170 Fax: (702) 382-1169

810 S. Casino Center Blvd., Suite 104

LARSON & STEPHENS

### EXHIBIT B

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# LARSON & STEPHENS 810 S. Casino Center Blvd., Suite 104 Las Vegas, Nevada 89101 Tel: (702) 382-1170 Fax: (702) 382-1169

# ORDER SUSTAINING DEBTORS' OBJECTION TO STAFFMARK'S CLAIM PURSUANT TO SECTION 502(b) OF THE BANKRUPTCY CODE AND BANKRUPTCY RULES 3003 AND 3007 [BOOKS & RECORDS CLAIM] [DOCKET NO. ]

Upon consideration of *Debtors' Objection to Staffmark's Claim Pursuant to Section* 502(b) of the Bankruptcy Code and Bankruptcy Rules 3003 and 3007 [Books & Records Claim] [Docket No. \_\_\_] (the "Objection"), filed by the above-captioned debtors and debtors in possession (collectively, the "Debtors"), requesting that the Court enter an order reducing the disputed claim; and the Court having jurisdiction to consider the Objection and the relief requested therein pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 157 and 1334; and the relief requested therein being a core proceeding pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 157(b); and venue being proper before this Court pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1408 and 1409; and the Court having reviewed the Objection; the Court hereby finds and determines that, pursuant to Rule 3007 of the Federal Rules of Bankruptcy Procedure, due and proper notice has been provided to the holder of the claim attached to the letter in Exhibit A to the Objection and all other parties entitled to notice; and no other or further notice is necessary; and the relief requested in the Objection is in the best interests of the Debtors, their estates and creditors; and that the legal and factual bases set forth in the Objection establishes just cause for the relief requested therein; therefore

#### IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT:

- 1. Claim number 7 of Staffmark in the amount of \$2,130.00, filed against The Rhodes Companies, LLC, is hereby reduced a claim in the amount of \$978.00.
- 2. This Court shall retain jurisdiction to hear and determine all matters arising from the implementation of this Order.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Capitalized terms used but not defined herein shall have the meanings ascribed to them in the Objection.

Case 09-14814-gwz

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